

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3,  
insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 18,  
insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9,  
insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23,  
insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line  
2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the embodiment in Figure [[4]] 6 a plan view is  
shown of a hexagonal protective element provided with two  
hexagonal projections 2 (one can be seen in Figure 4) as well as  
six projections [[6]] 4.--